

From: cparniawski@comcast.net
To: "Elizabeth giannaros" <Elizabeth.giannaros@cga.ct.gov>
Sent: Monday, February 22, 2010 3:43:52 PM GMT -05:00 US/Canada Eastern
Subject: Testimony on human trafficking

Dear Rep. Diane Urban,

I am responding to your request for testimony on the exploitation of children through human trafficking portals.

I am a registered nurse for over 35 years and a trained cultural diversity trainer. My formal training has been with the National Multicultural Institute in Washington, DC. NMCI was founded in 1983 and has responded to the nation's needs for services, knowledge and skills in the field of multiculturalism. They work with service providers, advocates, and law enforcement personnel to eliminate human trafficking in US and worldwide. They have developed a web portal to supply information on human trafficking issues which covers cases all over the US and globally.

www.humantraffickingsearch.net

As an instructor at a school of nursing part of the program is devoted to cultural awareness and the ability to recognize human trafficking victims. Nurses can first respond to recognize this situation.

The US government in 2008 coordinated efforts which involved several federal agencies and approximately \$23 million in FY 2008 for domestic programs to boost anti-trafficking law enforcement efforts to identify and protect victims of trafficking and raise awareness (US State Dept. Trafficking in Person Report, June 2009).

<http://gvnet.com/humantrafficking/USA.htm>

Why as a State would we not want to acknowledge that the issue exists? How can we continue to pride ourselves as a "free nation" if we do not want laws in place to prohibit modern day slavery? The nursing profession has always been an advocate for public health. We have panicked about the swine flu. Why would we not respond to individuals/children being put in these situations against their will?

Sincerely,

Charlotte Parniawski, MSN, CNE
Nursing Instructor
Bridgeport Hospital School of Nursing